



# Alabama Geologist

*A Publication of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists*

Volume 1 Issue 6

Summer 2000

## Ethics – Where to draw the Line

*By: Thornton “Tony” Neathery*

Ethics is a major component of the licensure process. Without a uniform code of ethics, monitoring of the licensees and their professional work can not be done and ultimately, the public suffers from incompetent or biased work. There is, however, a large gray zone of ethical conduct that needs attention. Where do we draw the line?

Who does the geologist work for: the profession/public or the client/company?

Almost all geological work can be interpreted in several ways depending on the education and experience of the professional doing the work. Sometimes the results are very far a part; sometimes they are not. Each person sees a problem slightly differently and approaches the problem differently but generally with the same objectives in mind. But what do you do when the geologist's work and data collection is reported in such an ambiguous way that the results are colored in favor of the client or to serve an agenda rather than tell the truth or present the true facts? The results may not be wrong but possibly incomplete, or the geologist's report is not forthright in interpreting the data resulting in less than accurate presentation of the data and/or the problem. When such a situation is uncovered, what do we do?

This is your Licensure Board, you support it in principle and in your commitment. We would like to hear from all licensees regarding similar situations and how they would resolve it. We are not asking for you to “blow the whistle” but to give us guidance on how to approach this and similar ethical dilemmas.

### CALENDER OF EVENTS

May 18, 2000	Board Meeting	(Thursday, 10:00 a.m.)
July 20, 2000	Board Meeting	(Thursday, 10:00 a.m.)
August 15, 2000	ASBOG Registration Deadline	
September 15, 2000	ASBOG Examination	(Friday, 8:00 a.m.)
September 21, 2000	Board Meeting	(Thursday, 10:00 a.m.)
November 16, 2000	Board Meeting	(Thursday, 10:00 a.m.)

**Congratulations to those that passed the ASBOG Exam!**

#### **Fundamentals of Geology**

John D. Harden  
James A. Heller  
Brian K. Hutchinson  
Douglas E. Mick  
Thomas F. Zondlo

#### **Practice of Geology**

Joseph R. Kelly  
Thomas F. Zondlo

## ABLPG Board Members

Thornton L. (Tony) Neathery, PG1,  
Chairman  
Independent Consultant Representative  
3032 Firethorn Drive  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405  
Office: 205-553-5466  
Fax: 205-553-6813  
E-mail: tneathery@prodigy.com

Fred Mason, PG2, Vice Chairman  
Government Representative  
2910 Ashley Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
Office: 334-271-7831  
Fax: 334-270-5631  
E-mail: FCM@adem.state.al.us

Mark Chapman, PG5, Secretary-Treasurer  
Business Representative  
Post Office Box 599, Suite 126  
Fairfield, AL 35064  
Office: 205-783-2168  
Fax: 205-783-2529  
E-mail: marancha@aol.com

David R. Bowers, Jr., PG42, Finance  
Committee  
Mining Representative  
Post Office Box 1549  
Jasper, AL 35502-1549  
Office: 205-387-0501  
Fax: 205-384-2456  
E-mail: cadecove@bellsouth.net

Roger Chapman, PG6, Finance Committee  
Petroleum Representative  
Post Office Box 649  
Brewton, AL 36427  
Office: 334-867-9044  
Fax: 334-867-5427  
E-mail: rchapman@longleafenergy.com

Mary Moran, PG3, Assistant Secretary  
Geotechnical Environmental Representative  
320 Beacon Parkway West  
Birmingham, AL 35209  
Office: 205-942-1289  
Fax: 205-942-1266  
E-mail: mmoran@gallet.com

Dr. Bob Cook, PG007, Continuing  
Education  
Academic Representative  
Auburn University  
210 Petrie Hall  
Auburn, AL 36849  
Office: 334-844-4282  
Fax: 334-844-4486  
E-mail: cookrob@mail.auburn.edu

Staff:  
Bill Little, Board Counsel  
Office of the Attorney General  
State of Alabama  
11 S. Union Street  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
Office: 334-242-4162

Keith Warren, Executive Secretary  
660 Adams Avenue, Suite 301 (36104)  
Post Office Box 175  
Montgomery, AL 36101-0175  
Office: 334-264-0730 or 334-269-9990  
Fax: 334-263-6115  
E-mail: ALGEOBD@aol.com

## Continuing Education Notes

*By: Bob Cook*

Virtually all of us will have to fulfill the Continuing Education requirements the next time we renew our registration. The Board continues to receive questions relative to the acceptability of certain activities. Most are very specific, and in almost every case approval is given. Some upcoming activities, parts or all of which are acceptable, include the following:

- Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, November 13-16, Reno, NV
- ICARD 2000 – International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage, May 21-24, Denver, CO
- SME Annual Meeting and Exhibit, February 26-28, 2001, Denver, CO
- Sixth International Symposium on Environmental Issues and Waste Management in Energy and Mineral Production, April 30-June 2, Calgary, Alberta
- Penn State Mineral Symposium, May 19-21, State College, PA
- AGU Spring Meeting, May 30-June 3, Washington, D.C.
- Georgia Watershed and Storm Water Management Conference, May 23, Peachtree City, GA
- AWWA National Conference, June 11-15, Denver, CO
- GW&PCA Annual Conference & Expo, August 6-9, Columbus, GA
- GW&PCA Fall Conference/Laboratory Symposium, Gwinnett County, GA

Closer to home, there are many less costly, lower profile ways to satisfy this requirement. First, it is important to take advantage of the activities of your local geological society and any other related groups. In Alabama, the Alabama Geological Society has done a marvelous job organizing such continuing education activities. There is always a geology session at the Alabama Academy of Science annual meeting. In Georgia, good technical programs are usually presented monthly by the Atlanta Geological Society and the Georgia Ground Water Association. To the north into Tennessee, the East Tennessee Geological Society has done a good job having acceptable technical presentations at most meetings. Remember that there must be a formal record of attendance maintained by the society for whose activities are claimed for credit, as well as abstracts or programs of the events.

The web is a wonderful source of additional information concerning activities that can fulfill the Continuing Education requirement. A good place to start is the Geological Society of America site a <http://www.geosociety.org>. Here you will find “geoscience calendar” which has a monthly listing of meetings and related gatherings that offer technical programs and field trips. Also at the GSA site is a page of links to the 21 associated societies, most of which have their own sets of activities and web pages with other links. The list of possible activities can grow quickly with a little effort.

If you have questions concerning specific activities, it is always acceptable to contact the Board. We do ask that you first spend a few minutes reviewing the Continuing Education booklet of guidelines mailed to you about a year ago to make sure that the answer isn't already at hand. If not, then send us your questions by letter, fax or Email. If we will need formal descriptions of programs or events in order to make a decision relative to credit, please include them.

## Association Contact Information

### American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG)

7828 Vance Drive, #103  
Arvada, CO 80003-2125  
7:30 AM-4:30 PM MDT; M-F  
Telephone: 303-431-0831  
Fax: 303-431-1332  
<http://www.aipg.org/AIPGScripts/Index.cfm>  
E-mail: [aipg@aipg.org](mailto:aipg@aipg.org)

### Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG)

Department of Geology & Geophysics  
Texas A&M University MS-3115  
College Station, TX 77843-3115  
Telephone: 409-845-0142  
Fax: 409-862-7959

### National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)

Post Office Box 11591  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1591  
Telephone: 803-799-1047  
Fax: 803-252-3432  
<http://www.geosun1.sjsu.edu/asbog/index.htm>  
E-mail: [asbog@asbog.org](mailto:asbog@asbog.org)

### Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration

8307 Shaffer Parkway  
Littleton, Colorado 80127  
Telephone: 800-763-3132  
Fax: 303-973-3845  
<http://www.smenet.org>  
E-mail: [sme@smenet.org](mailto:sme@smenet.org)

### U.S. Geological Survey

807 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: 1-888-ASK-USGS (1-888-275-8747)  
<http://www.usgs.gov>  
E-mail: <http://www.usgs.gov/mail.html>

## Expired Licenses

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Expiration</i>
Moore	James D.	Mar-99
Glash	Scott Jay	Mar-99
Smith	William G.	Mar-99
Ward, II	Willard E.	Mar-99
Spooner	Victor A.	Mar-99
Meyer	Eric W.	Mar-99
Parker	Steven J.	Mar-99
Ashworth	Vernon C.	Mar-99
Abston	Susan L.	Apr-99
Dielman	Steven A.	Apr-99
Knight	Joseph	Apr-99
Thomas	Charles M.	Apr-99
Twitty	Amy T.	Apr-99
Williams	Allison Davis	Apr-99
Tibbs	Thomas R.	Apr-99
Child	John W.	Apr-99
Wingo	Dwight	Apr-99
Johns, II	Keith B.	May-99
Lee	Michelle M.	May-99
Heschle, III	Henry Christian	Jun-99
Scherer	Victor E.	Jun-99
Hutton, III	Harry Hayes	Jun-99
Bristol	Sue	Jun-99
Reid	Ellen R.	Jun-99
Enos	Gabrielle M.	Jun-99
Howze	Bryn D.	Jun-99
Schweitzer	Roger E.	Jun-99
Twitmyer	Thomas F.	Jun-99
Willoughby	Kerry B.	Jun-99
Bagel	Mark Gary	Jun-99
Roberts	Kent B.	Jun-99
McDonnell	Matthew A.	Jun-99
Lynch	Ronald S.	Jun-99
Rickman	Doug	Jun-99
Zimmerman, Jr.	John Edgar	Jun-99

*Continued on page 4*

## New Committee Members

*By: Keith E. Warren*

I am pleased to announce our new committee members for the ABLPG. Mr. Bob Mink will be serving on the Legislative Committee, and Mr. Michael Bearsch will be serving on the Enforcement and Investigative Committee. These positions are voluntarily, and we would like to extend our sincerest thanks to those two individuals for volunteering their time and efforts to ensure the welfare and safety of the citizens of Alabama.

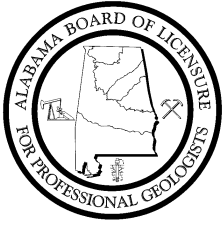
Mr. Mink will be monitoring legislation and notifying the Board of any legislation pertaining to the Board or the profession.

Mr. Bearsch will be investigating complaints that require technical assistance.

We are pleased to have these two individuals on Board and look forward to working with them in the future.

## Expired Licenses (Continued)

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Expiration</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Expiration</i>
Bentley	Allen M.	Jun-99	Pattey	Philip D.	Jul-99
Nicholson	Toni F.	Jun-99	Renault	Claire E.	Jul-99
Dean	Michelle A.	Jun-99	Rich	Douglas H.	Jul-99
Stricklin	Victor	Jun-99	Offner	Stephen D.	Jul-99
Morgan	Dylan T.	Jun-99	Wilson	John M.	Jul-99
Moore	Donald B.	Jun-99	Parzentny	Sylvia	Jul-99
Ferguson	Paul A.	Jun-99	Arnold	Greg P.	Jul-99
Bartek	Carrie E. S.	Jun-99	McCollum	Ernest R.	Jul-99
Kennedy	Steve A.	Jun-99	Cothran	Clarence C.	Jul-99
DeReamer	Timothy E.	Jun-99	Jacobs	James A.	Jul-99
Kihn	Gary E.	Jun-99	Gillentine	Christopher J.	Jul-99
Swanson	David E.	Jun-99	Schindel	Geary M.	Aug-99
Caudill	Kimberly S.	Jun-99	Payne	Curtis M.	Aug-99
Bankole	Benedict O.	Jun-99	Scott	Phillip Brent	Aug-99
Spencer	James R.	Jun-99	Harris	W.O.	Aug-99
Sylte	Andrew T.	Jun-99	Koch	Jay M.	Aug-99
Puvvada	George P.	Jun-99	Ergle	Kimball D.	Aug-99
Walkinshaw	Steven S.	Jun-99	Lewis	Robert D.	Aug-99
Watkins	G. Todd	Jun-99	Johnson	W. Howard	Aug-99
Coney	Charles V.	Jun-99	Behrens	Wm. Kerry	Aug-99
Jackson	Tamara Lynn	Jun-99	Whitfield	Allison	Aug-99
Thacker	Joseph L.	Jun-99	Clark	Murlene	Aug-99
Malone	Phil	Jun-99	Cooley	Scott Alfred	Aug-99
Madaj	Ambrose J.	Jun-99	Hopper, Jr.	J. Thad	Aug-99
Baumgras	Lynne M.	Jun-99	Pearce	Philip C.	Aug-99
Hidle	George M.	Jun-99	Nelson	George T.	Aug-99
Herbst	Darrin William	Jun-99	Bellone	Michael G.	Sep-99
Jorgenson	Lori D.	Jun-99	Poe	David M.	Sep-99
Shane	Bryan L.	Jun-99	Belyeu	Mark R.	Sep-99
Pierce	Alan K.	Jun-99	Sims	James J.	Sep-99
Gartner	Mark K.	Jun-99	Britain	David R.	Sep-99
Patterson	W. Samuel	Jun-99	Friddell	Michael S.	Oct-99
Evans, Jr.	Francis E.	Jun-99	Pass	David A.	Oct-99
LaRue	Diana L.	Jun-99	Bocskosky	William P.	Oct-99
DeGrosky	Kevin O.	Jun-99	Johnson	Christopher R.	Nov-99
Radzieta	David W.	Jun-99	Neill	Donald W.	Nov-99
Stock	Carl W.	Jun-99	Fleming	John W.	Nov-99
Daniel	Joseph H.	Jul-99	Pass	Keith D.	Jan-00
Larson	W.M.	Jul-99	Whittington	David	Jan-00
Chaplinsky	Peter P.	Jul-99	Meigs	Joe V.	Jan-00
Cobb	Brian	Jul-99	Breeden	Roger D.	Jan-00
Caravati	Kevin C.	Jul-99	Higginbotham	David R.	Jan-00
Cunniff	Robert T.	Jul-99	Warren	William M.	Jan-00
Carroll	Richard E.	Jul-99	Qualls	Jerry Scott	Jan-00
Robinson	Vance	Jul-99	Glaze, Jr.	John B.	Jan-00
Arnold	Ann Compton	Jul-99	Journey	Celeste A.	Jan-00
Dodson	James N.	Jul-99	Sims	Richard C.	Jan-00
Munch	Douglas A.	Jul-99	O'Leary	William J.	Jan-00
Chiles	Chet C.	Jul-99	Krueger	James P.	Feb-00
Ginnings	Bradley C.	Jul-99	Jenkins	Michael R.	Feb-00
Hargraves	John W.	Jul-99	Van Winkle	Steven W.	Feb-00
Cannan	Teresa M.	Jul-99	Winkler	Amy I.	Feb-00
Hafner	Todd C.	Jul-99	Jones	Harold H.	Feb-00

*Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists*

660 Adams Avenue Suite 301 Montgomery, Alabama 36104

P.O. Box 175 Montgomery, AL 36101-0175

Telephone: (334) 264-0730 Fax: (334) 263-6115

**Consumer Complaint Form**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Geologist or Company

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (Home) (Work)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Services Rendered

\_\_\_\_\_  
How did you learn about the complainant?

Please explain the entire circumstances surrounding your complaint including your attempts to solve the problem.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Executive Secretary Notes

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to Mr. Bearsch and Mr. Mink in volunteering their time for the new committees. I would also like to further extend my appreciation to the members of the Board. It is a constant effort for them to continue to operate their businesses or jobs and volunteer their time to serve on a professional regulatory Board. The next time you see a member of the Board, please give them a pat on the back. They work very hard for you and the profession.

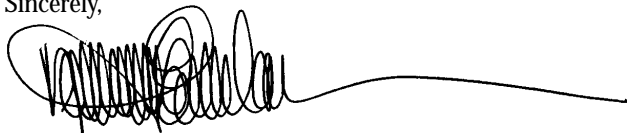
Continuing Education questions still arise from time to time. Most of your questions can be answered in the *Continuing Education Guidelines Booklet* distributed to you last year. If you do not have a copy of this publication, please notify the Board office, and we will mail you a copy.

Please remember it is your responsibility to notify this office when you have an address change. We cannot properly keep you notified of license renewals, newsletters or other correspondence if we do not have a current address on file.

I would like to thank the individuals who viewed our web page and returned a comment form back to the office. It is always nice to have comments from the licensees. For those of you who have not seen our web page, the address is [www.algeobd.com](http://www.algeobd.com), and our email address is ALGEOBD@aol.com.

Please let us know whenever we can be of assistance to you. We are here to serve you for any licensure matter.

Sincerely,



Keith E. Warren

**Alabama Geologist**

Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists  
660 Adams Avenue, Suite 301 (36104)  
Post Office Box 175  
Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0175

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Montgomery, AL  
Permit No. 109